

PCTWORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
International Bureau

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁵ : A23G 1/00	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 93/12664 (43) International Publication Date: 8 July 1993 (08.07.93)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/SE92/00876 (22) International Filing Date: 18 December 1992 (18.12.92) (30) Priority data: 9103783-8 20 December 1991 (20.12.91) SE (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): KARL-SHAMNS OILS & FATS AB [SE/SE]; S-374 82 Karlshamn (SE). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only) : ALANDER, Jari [SE/SE]; Hantverkaregatan 51, S-374 37 Karlshamn (SE). WARNHEIM, Torbjörn [SE/SE]; Hemslöjdsvägen 4, S-161 49 Bromma (SE). LÜHTI, Erwin [SE/SE]; Kremlevägen 9, S-374 40 Karlshamn (SE).		(74) Agent: AWAPATENT AB; Box 5117, S-200 71 Malmö (SE). (81) Designated States: AT, AU, BB, BG, BR, CA, CH, CS, DE, DK, ES, FI, GB, HU, JP, KP, KR, LK, LU, MG, MN, MW, NL, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, UA, US, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i> <i>In English translation (filed in Swedish).</i>
(54) Title: HEAT-RESISTANT CHOCOLATE COMPOSITION AND PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION THEREOF (57) Abstract A heat-resistant or thermostable chocolate composition is prepared by mixing a chocolate mass, commonly used for preparing chocolate compositions, with a solution mainly consisting of a water-in-oil microemulsion comprising water, fat and an emulsifier, and optionally small amounts of one or more other phases, the water in the microemulsion being present in the form of droplets having a size of 10-1,000 Å. In a process for preparing the heat-resistant chocolate composition, a chocolate mass commonly used for preparing chocolate compositions is mixed with a solution mainly consisting of a water-in-oil microemulsion comprising water, fat and an emulsifier, and optionally small amounts of one or more other phases, the water in the microemulsion being present in the form of droplets having a size of 10-1,000 Å.		

FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AT	Austria	FR	France	MR	Mauritania
AU	Australia	GA	Gabon	MW	Malawi
BB	Barbados	GB	United Kingdom	NL	Netherlands
BE	Belgium	GN	Guinea	NO	Norway
BF	Burkina Faso	GR	Greece	NZ	New Zealand
BG	Bulgaria	HU	Hungary	PL	Poland
BJ	Benin	IE	Ireland	PT	Portugal
BR	Brazil	IT	Italy	RO	Romania
CA	Canada	JP	Japan	RU	Russian Federation
CF	Central African Republic	KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	SD	Sudan
CG	Congo	KR	Republic of Korea	SE	Sweden
CH	Switzerland	KZ	Kazakhstan	SK	Slovak Republic
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	LI	Liechtenstein	SN	Senegal
CM	Cameroon	LK	Sri Lanka	SU	Soviet Union
CS	Czechoslovakia	LU	Luxembourg	TD	Chad
CZ	Czech Republic	MC	Monaco	TG	Togo
DE	Germany	MG	Madagascar	UA	Ukraine
DK	Denmark	ML	Mali	US	United States of America
ES	Spain	MN	Mongolia	VN	Viet Nam
FI	Finland				

HEAT-RESISTANT CHOCOLATE COMPOSITION AND PROCESS FOR
THE PREPARATION THEREOF

The present invention relates to a heat-resistant or
5 thermostable chocolate composition and a process for the
preparation thereof.

For consumer appeal, a chocolate bar should have a
very special consistency. It should snap brittly at room
temperature but melt quickly in the mouth, where the tem-
10 perature is about 35°C. In warmer countries, for instance,
it may, however, be difficult to maintain the texture of
the chocolate up to the moment the chocolate is to be
eaten. The problem then is to keep the brittleness of the
chocolate without impairing its other properties.

15 By the use of various additives, sometimes combined
with special processes of preparation, chocolate can be
made to keep its texture also at temperatures at which it
would otherwise have melted or at least softened
excessively. Chocolate thus stabilised is referred to as
20 heat-resistant or tropicalised chocolate.

Heat-resistant chocolate can be produced according to
two fundamentally different methods.

In the first method, a certain amount of high-melt-
ing fat phase is added to the chocolate composition. The
25 fat crystals in this phase then form a lattice that main-
tains its structure despite the melting of the remainder
of the fatty phase. This method can be optimised, so as
not to deteriorate the mouth feel of the chocolate.

In the second method, use is primarily made of the
30 sugar particles in the chocolate mass to form a lattice
that maintains its structure when the fatty phase melts.
By adding water or other hydrophilic components, the sugar
particles can be made to adhere to one another. When the
chocolate bar is consumed, the sugar lattice is dissolved,
35 there being no notic able impairment of the mouth feel as
compared with that of ordinary chocolate.

However, the problem associated with such a lattice of sugar particles resides in achieving a uniform, fine distribution of the water when preparing the chocolate. If one does not succeed in doing this, the sugar particles will form large aggregates making the chocolate mass gritty and too viscous, which may have negative effects on the consistency of the end product.

There are various known processes for finely distributing the water in the making of chocolate.

10 In one process, use is thus made of a water-in-oil emulsion consisting of triglyceride, emulsifier and water (or other hydrophilic additives). EP Patent Specification 0,033,718, for instance, discloses such a process.

Also, a protein-stabilised foam can be used for binding the water in the chocolate composition. EP Patent Application 407,347, for instance, discloses such a process.

20 In these prior-art processes, the emulsion or the foam is added to the chocolate mass, where it is broken, whereby the water is so distributed that the sugar particles will adhere to one another.

These processes all concern systems that require mechanical energy, such as homogenisation or mixing, to achieve the desired distribution of the water in the chocolate mass. In addition, these systems are not thermodynamically stable, i.e. they tend to separate sooner or later, which requires special process equipment. In addition, the admixture to the chocolate mass, as indeed the entire process, is difficult to perform in a controlled manner. Since it is difficult to foresee how the emulsion or the foam will be broken when admixed to the chocolate mass, it is difficult to control the effect of the water admixture.

35 The use of emulsions or foams is obviously disadvantageous owing to the size of the water domains in the systems. A water droplet in a water-in-oil emulsion may be from 0.1 μm to 100 μm in size. At the lower limit, a

microemulsion is obtained, whereas the upper limit often involves rapid destabilisation of the system and phase separation. The water domains in foam lamellae may be relatively thin (in the order of below 1 μm) but are
5 instead extended in two dimensions. Too large water domains impart undesirable qualities to the chocolate.

The aim of the present invention is, therefore, to provide a chocolate composition and a process for the preparation thereof obviating the above drawbacks of prior-
10 art compositions and processes.

The invention thus relates to a heat-resistant or thermostable chocolate composition prepared by mixing a chocolate mass, commonly used for preparing chocolate compositions, with a solution mainly consisting of a water-
15 in-oil microemulsion comprising water, fat and an emulsifier, and optionally small amounts of one or more other phases, the water in the microemulsion being present in the form of droplets having a size of 10-1,000 Å.

The invention also concerns a process for preparing a
20 heat-resistant or thermostable chocolate composition, in which a chocolate mass, commonly used for preparing chocolate compositions, is mixed with a solution mainly consisting of a water-in-oil microemulsion comprising water, fat and an emulsifier, and optionally small amounts of one
25 or more phases, the water in the microemulsion being present in the form of droplets having a size of 10-1,000 Å.

A microemulsion is an isotropic, low-viscosity and thermodynamically stable solution containing at least water, fat and an emulsifier. Microemulsions are well-
30 known in the art and have various applications, such as cleaning, catalysis and tertiary-oil production. It is also well-known to produce microemulsions of food components, e.g. with triglycerides as fatty phase and with monoglycerides, lecithins or sorbitan esters as emulsi-
35 fiers. However, the actual use of microemulsions for food purposes is limited, among other things because dissolving

the triglycerides in the microemulsion involves certain difficulties.

Microemulsions suitably used in the invention preferably contain a vegetable fat or cocoa butter. Use is advantageously made of fat of the common types CBR (Cocoa Butter Replacement), CBE (Cocoa Butter Equivalent), CB (Cocoa Butter) or CBS (Cocoa Butter Substitute), or mixtures thereof. CBR is a non-tempering chocolate fat based on C16/C18 fatty acids, CBE is a temperable chocolate fat based on C16/C18 fatty acids, and CBS is a non-tempering chocolate fat based on C12/C14 fatty acids.

In the invention, use can be made of common food emulsifiers, such as natural or synthetic lecithins, mono- or diglycerides, polyglycerol esters, sucrose esters, sorbitan esters, galactolipides or derivatives thereof. Food legislation often stipulates what emulsifiers may be used.

Microemulsions of these components in water are of so-called L2 type, i.e. solutions in which the emulsifier and the oil form the continuous phase, in which are dissolved droplets of water in the order of 10-1,000 Å.

Microemulsions differ from ordinary emulsions both visually and in respect of stability, by being transparent and by forming spontaneously and reversibly.

In the preparation of chocolate compositions according to the invention, microemulsions are admixed to a chocolate mass commonly used in chocolate compositions. The desired heat resistance is imparted to the chocolate composition by the water in the microemulsions.

The microemulsion is added to the chocolate mass in a weight ratio in the range of 1:5-1:50 of microemulsion to chocolate mass. A preferred weight ratio is 1:10-1:50. If the weight ratio falls below the lower limit, the desired thermostability is not achieved. At the higher limit, on the other hand, the prepared product may not taste as it should. Also, food legislation may restrict the permissible amount of emulsifier and other additives in the end product.

The quantitative ratio in the microemulsion between emulsifier, fat and water may vary within wide limits and depends on the properties of the components used.

The microemulsion is mixed with the chocolate mass, and chocolate bars may then be moulded in conventional manner. After solidification, the chocolate bar will essentially retain its shape upon heating to 35-40°C. At this temperature, the chocolate bar without any microemulsion added would have melted.

A solution which mainly consists of a microemulsion, but also contains small amounts of one or more other phases (e.g. dispersed liquid crystal, a water-continuous phase), and which consequently has a lower content of emulsifier, will also be satisfactory. Further, a minor amount (at most about 10% by weight) of the fat and/or the emulsifier may be present in crystallised form in the microemulsion.

The main requirement placed on the microemulsion is that it should yield a water content sufficient to make the sugar particles adhere to one another in the chocolate mass. In known chocolate compositions comprising water-in-oil emulsions or protein-stabilised foams, the lowest concentration of water present is a total of about 1%. It is likely that this lower limit can be further reduced by the use of microemulsions, since the water in these is more finely distributed than in the known emulsions and foams.

The heat resistance of the chocolate product can be enhanced by using comparatively high-melting emulsifiers. It has further been found that the emulsifier also contributes to the thermostability of the end product when the content of emulsifier is sufficiently high. The effect of the emulsifier on the thermostability is, however, difficult to foresee, since the melting point of an emulsifier largely depends on the water content, i.e. on whether the emulsifier is hydrated or not. For e.g. an emulsifier of monoglyceride type, a melting point of the

pure monoglyceride of about 40-60°C is required for it to contribute to thermostability at 35°C.

As mentioned above, the total content of emulsifier in the end product is often restricted by food legislation.

5 In Sweden, for instance, the highest content of emulsifier allowed at present is a total of 2%. Since lecithin is often added in an amount of up to 0.5% already at an earlier stage of the manufacturing process, the amount of emulsifier subsequently added must not exceed 1.5%.

10 Using microemulsions for introducing finely distributed water in chocolate compositions has the special advantage of making it very easy, in terms of process technique, to "tropicalise" the chocolate. Unlike ordinary emulsions and foams, a microemulsion can form without
15 extensive mechanical processing. As a rule, microemulsions form spontaneously, but the process may be speeded up by agitation. Another advantage of microemulsions is that they re-form spontaneously if broken for some reason or other. A broken emulsion, on the other hand, has to be
20 mechanically processed to be restored.

The invention will be illustrated in more detail below with the aid of non-restricting Examples.

Example 1

25 To 250 g chocolate mass consisting of

30.0% chocolate fat (CBR)

8.0% cocoa mass

45.7% sugar

30 16.0% cocoa powder

0.3% lecithin

was added 25 ml of a microemulsion consisting of

35 60% monoglyc ride having an iodine number of 40

15% water

25% chocolate fat (CBR)

7

at 40°C. After solidification at 20°C, the chocolate retained its shape when heated to >35°C for 1 h. This is superior to reference chocolate without additives, which completely loses its shape under these conditions.

5

Example 2

To 250 g chocolate mass consisting of

- 6.5% chocolate fat (CBE)
- 10 18.5% cocoa butter
- 9.0% cocoa mass
- 42.7% sugar
- 8.0% low-fat milk powder
- 15.0% skimmed milk powder
- 15 0.3% lecithin

was added 25 ml of a microemulsion consisting of

- 60% monoglyceride having an iodine number of 65
- 20 15% water
- 25% chocolate fat (CBE)

at 30°C. After solidification at 8-10°C and storage for 1 week, the chocolate retained its shape when heated to 40°C
25 for 3 h. This is superior to a reference chocolate without any additives, which completely loses its shape under the same conditions.

Example 3

30 To 250 g chocolate mass consisting of

- 30.0% chocolate fat (CBR)
- 8.0% cocoa mass
- 45.7% sugar
- 35 16.0% cocoa powder
- 0.3% lecithin

8

was added 16 g of a microemulsion consisting of

60% mono-/diglyceride having an iodine number of 40

20% water

5 20% chocolate fat (CBR)

at 38°C. After solidification at 8-10°C, the chocolate retained its shape when heated to >35°C for 3 h. This is superior to a reference chocolate without any additives, which completely loses its shape under such conditions.

10

Example 4

To 500 g chocolate mass consisting of

30.0% chocolate fat (CBR)

15 8.0% cocoa mass

45.7% sugar

16.0% cocoa powder

0.3% lecithin

20 was added 55 ml of a microemulsion consisting of

50% monoglyceride having an iodine number of 50

25% water

10% lecithin

25 15% chocolate fat (CBR)

at 38°C. After solidification at 10°C and storage for 1 week, the chocolate retained its shape when heated to 40°C for 3 h. This is superior to a reference chocolate without any additives, which completely loses its shape under similar conditions.

30

Example 5

To 250 g chocolate mass consisting of

35

30.0% chocolate fat (CBR)

8.0% cocoa mass

45.7% sugar
16.0% cocoa powder
0.3% lecithin

5 was added 8 g of a microemulsion consisting of

60% monoglyceride having an iodine number of 40
20% water
20% chocolate fat (CBR)

10

at 40°C. After solidification at 8-10°C, the chocolate retained its shape when heated to 35°C for 3 h. This is superior to a reference chocolate without any additives, which completely loses its shape under identical conditions.

15

Example 6

To 500 g chocolate mass consisting of

20 9.0% cocoa mass
18.5% cocoa butter
6.5% chocolate fat (CBE)
8.0% low-fat milk powder
15.0% whole milk powder
25 42.7% sugar
0.3% lecithin

was added 50 g of microemulsion consisting of

30 65% monoglyceride having an iodine number of 105
15% water
20% chocolate fat (CBE)

at 29°C. After solidification at 10°C, the chocolate retain d its shape when heated to 40°C for 1 h. This is superior to refer nce chocolate without any additives, which completely los s its shape under these conditions.

35

Example 7

To 250 g chocolate mass consisting of

- 5 30.0% chocolate fat (CBR)
- 8.0% cocoa mass
- 45.7% sugar
- 16.0% cocoa powder
- 0.3% lecithin

10

was added 16 g of a microemulsion consisting of

50% monoglyceride having an iodine number of 105
15% water

- 15 15% citric acid esters of mono-/diglycerides
- 20% chocolate fat (CBR)

at 39°C. After solification at 10°C, the chocolate
retained its shape when heated to 35°C for 1 h. This is
20 superior to a reference chocolate without any additives,
which completely loses its shape under the same condi-
tions.

Example 8

- 25 To 500 g chocolate mass consisting of

30.0% chocolate fat (CBR)
8.0% cocoa mass
45.7% sugar
30 16.0% cocoa powder
0.3% lecithin

was added 16 g of a microemulsion consisting of

- 35 65% monoglyceride having an iodine number of 40
- 15% water
- 25% chocolate fat (CBR)

11

at 40°C. After solidification at 10°C, the chocolate
retained its shape when heated to 35°C for 1 h. This is
superior to a reference chocolate without any additives,
which completely loses its shape under identical condi-
5 tions.

10

15

20

25

30

35

CLAIMS

1. A heat-resistant chocolate composition, c h a -
5 r a c t e r i s e d in that it has been prepared by
mixing a chocolate mass, commonly used for preparing
chocolate compositions, with a solution mainly consisting
of a water-in-oil microemulsion comprising water, fat and
an emulsifier, and optionally small amounts of one or more
10 other phases, the water in the microemulsion being present
in the form of droplets having av size of 10-1,000 Å.

2. A chocolate composition as set forth in claim 1,
c h a r a c t e r i s e d in that the weight ratio of the
microemulsion-containing solution to the chocolate mass in
15 the composition lies in the range of 1:5-1:50.

3. A chocolate composition as set forth in claim 1 or
2, c h a r a c t e r i s e d in that the fat in the
microemulsion is a vegetable fat or cocoa butter.

4. A chocolate composition as set forth in claim 3,
20 c h a r a c t e r i s e d in that the fat is of the type
CBR, CBE, CB or CBS, or mixtures thereof.

5. A chocolate composition as set forth in any of
claims 1-4, c h a r a c t e r i s e d in that the
emulsifier is chosen from natural or synthetic lecithins,
25 mono- or diglycerides, polyglycerol esters, sucrose
esters, sorbitan esters, galactolipides or derivatives
thereof.

6. A process for preparing a heat-resistant or
thermostable chocolate composition, c h a r a c -
30 t e r i s e d by mixing a chocolate mass, commonly used
for preparing chocolate compositions, with a solution
mainly consisting of a water-in-oil microemulsion compris-
ing water, fat and an emulsifier, and optionally small
amounts of one or more oth r phases, the water in the
35 microemulsion b ing present in the form of droplets having
a size of 10-1,000 Å.

13

7. A process as set forth in claim 6, c h a r a c -
t e r i s e d by mixing the microemulsion with the
chocolate mass in a weight ratio lying in the range of
1:5-1:50.

5 8. A process as set forth in claim 6 or 7, c h a -
r a c t e r i s e d by the fat in the microemulsion being
a vegetable fat or cocoa butter.

9. A process as set forth in claim 8, c h a r a c -
t e r i s e d by the fat being of the type CBR, CBE, CB
10 or CBS, or mixtures thereof.

10. A process as set forth in any of claims 6-9,
c h a r a c t e r i s e d by choosing the emulsifier from
natural or synthetic lecithins, mono- or diglycerides,
polyglycerol esters, sucrose esters, sorbitan esters,
15 galactolipides or derivatives thereof.

20

25

30

35

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/SE 92/00876

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC5: A23G 1/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC5: A23G, A23D

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

SE,DK,FI,NO classes as above

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US, A, 4446166 (CLAUDE GIDDEY ET AL), 1 May 1984 (01.05.84), column 3, line 22 - column 4, line 27 --	1-10
X	EP, A2, 0393327 (LOTTE CO., LTD), 24 October 1990 (24.10.90), claim 4, abstract --	1-10
P,X	US, A, 5149560 (KIRK S. KEALEY ET AL), 22 Sept 1992 (22.09.92), column 3, line 48 - column 5, line 47 --	1-10

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☒ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

Date of mailing of the international search report

1 April 1993

07-04-1993

Name and mailing address of the ISA/
Swedish Patent Office
Box 5055, S-102 42 STOCKHOLM
Facsimile N . +46 8 666 02 86

Authorized officer

Kerstin Boije Janson
Telephone No. +46 8 782 25 00

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

26/02/93

International application No.

PCT/SE 92/00876

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US-A- 4446166	01/05/84	AT-E, T- 5226 AU-B- 542304 CA-A- 1162783 EP-A, B- 0033718 SE-T3- 0033718	15/11/83 14/02/85 28/02/84 12/08/81
EP-A2- 0393327	24/10/90	AU-B- 626650 AU-A- 5219690 JP-A- 2276537 US-A- 5160760	06/08/92 18/10/90 13/11/90 03/11/92
US-A- 5149560	22/09/92	AU-A- 1759492 WO-A- 9216112	21/10/92 01/10/92
EP-A2- 0397247	14/11/90	AU-B- 625126 AU-A- 5486890 JP-A- 3206848 US-A- 5104680	02/07/92 15/11/90 10/09/91 14/04/92